Purchase of Power from Neighbouring Countries

2418. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering/ have finalised proposals for import of power from neighbouring countries like Nepal, Pakistan etc.;

(b) if so, the details of agreement signed/ progress made so far in finalising the proposals;

(c) the total quantum of power proposed to be imported and financial implications thereof; and

(d) the details of action plan proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) Bilateral arrangement/agreement already exists for exchange of power between India and Nepal and India and Bhutan. The Government of India and Bangladesh have agreed to prepare a joint feasibility report for inter-connection of power systems between Bangladesh and India for exchange of power between the two countries for purchase of power.

As regards import of power from Pakistan, two rounds of discussions have already been held between the two countries. Government of Pakistan has confirmed availability of 300 MW of capacity to export to India for next ten years which could be increased to 600 MW as per availability during certain periods of time depending upon technical limits of the system on either side. The operating agreement for purchase of power and the tariff rates have not yet been finalised.

Claim of Baira-Siul Hydro-Electric Project in Himachal Pradesh

2419. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Himachal Pradesh Government have requested the Union Government to refund Rs. 31.45 crore to the former on settlement of Himachal Pradesh claims in Baira-Siul Hydro-Electric Project from February, 1982 to September, 1994;

(b) whether the Union Government has also been requested to refund Rs. 3.47 crore to H.P. Government deducted arbitrarily by the former on account of payments to Nathpa Jakhari Power Corporation when no such liability was due from Government of H.P.;

(c) whether Government have taken any action on these requests; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Power has not received any such request from the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Government of Himachal Pradesh has requested for compensation equivalent to 12% free power which they are claiming is a matter of right from 1982 onwards to September, 1994. The Baira Siul Hydro-electric project was commissioned and went into commercial operation w.e.f. 1.4.1982. National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) has been billing Himachal State Electricity Board (HPSEB) as per the share allocation as notified by the Government of India from time to time, right from the inception of the project. The outstanding amount of Rs. 42.82 crores as of December, 1996 consisting of the principal amount as surcharge was recovered through Central Plan Appropriation (CPA) in 1997-98. The allocation of power for Baira Siul Project was made in September, 1982. Under the Allocation order dated 2nd September, 1982, Government of H.P. was entitled to 10% of energy generated at bus bar in addition to the royalty calculated at 1.5 paise per KWH which was to be paid to the Government of H.P. This order was subsequently modified in September, 1994. The modified order dated 5.9.1994 provided for an allocation of 12% free power based on actual energy generated after deducting the auxiliary consumption. By virtue of the order issued dated 5.9.1994, the payment of royalty was stopped since the State was

entitled to 12% free power. The Government of H.P. is however, claiming 12% free power from September, 1982. This claim has not been found tenable.

The Government of H.P. have also requested for waiver of surcharge on the ground that there was a dispute regarding the dues payable. This issue is under consideration.

Exploitation of Hydel Potentials in Himachal Pradesh

2420. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the need for exploitation of Hydel power potentials in Himachal Pradesh, the State Government has requested the Union Government to provide additional funds under Generation Head, for on-going projects amounting to Rs. 75 crores during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the requests made in June, 1997 furnished ample justification for additional demand, as referred to in part (a) above;

(d) whether Government propose to decide these demands to enable State Government to accelerate construction work in Larji and Ghanvi Hydel projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARMANGALAM): (a) to (e) Government of Himachal Pradesh had requested for additional assistance of Rs. 50 crores for Larji Hydro-electric Project and Rs. 25 crores for Ghanvi Hydroelectric Project during annual plan 1997-98. This request was not supported by Planning Commission due to the fact that necessary provision had not been made in the Annual Plan 1997-98. However, for the Ninth Plan period (1997—2002) the Working Group has recommended Rs. 200 crores and Rs. 28 crores for Larji and Ghanvi projects respectively. The benefits from Ghanvi HEP has been considered during the Ninth Plan in the total target of 40245 MW whereas the benefits from Larji HEP has not been included.

Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has sanctioned a loan of Rs. 61.5 crores for the execution of Ghanvi Hydro-electric Project. PFC has also received the proposal of Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board for funding Larji Hydro project.

New Energy Policy

2421. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated New Energy Policy; if so, the details thereof, including the cardinal features of the said policy;

(b) whether views of various State Governments were elicited before drawing up the aforesaid policy; if so, the what extent their view-points were accommodated therein; and

(c) whether the new policy integrates the both conventional and non-conventional energy sources within its fold?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) No, Sir. Formulation of a new energy policy is under the consideration of the Planning Commission.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

NTPC World Bank Conflict over Rehabilitation Programmes

2422. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Thermal Power Corporation has resolved its conflict with the World Bank over the rehabilitation and resettlement programmes, at its coal-based power projects; and

(b) if so, what were the issues of conflict and how they have been resolved?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.